

REMARKS

This paper responds to the Office Action mailed on October 27, 2004.

Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11-14, 16, 17, 19-21, 23, and 24 are amended. Claims 1-25 remain pending in this application.

Amendments to the Specification

Applicant has reviewed and edited the entire specification for accuracy and consistency of terminology and grammar. Applicant has made several amendments to the specification by substituting “embodiments of the invention” for “invention”.

No new matter is introduced through these amendments to the specification.

§103 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 8 and 11 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Neal in view of Gutierrez.

Applicant respectfully traverses.

Independent claim 8 is amended to recite the things at least similar to the things recited in the allowable claim 1. Thus, Applicant believes that claim 8 is patentable over Neal and Gutierrez, either individual or in combination. Accordingly, Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection, and allowance of claim 8.

Dependent claim 11 depends from claim 8 and recites the things of claim 8. Thus, Applicant believes that claim 11 is also patentable over Neal and Gutierrez, either individual or in combination. Accordingly, Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection, and allowance of claim 11.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 9-10 and 12-17 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 9 and 12 are rewritten in independent form. The rewriting of claims 9 and 12 does not alter the scope of claims 9 and 12. Thus, claims 9, 12, 8 (dependent from claim 9), and 13-18 (dependent from claim 12) are now in condition for allowance.

Claims 1-7 and 19-25 were indicated to be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 37 CFR 1.75.

Claims 1-7 and 19-25 are selectively amended only for clarity, as suggested in the Office Action. Thus, claims 1-7 and 19-25 are now in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney ((612) 373-6969) to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.

Respectfully submitted,

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By



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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: MS Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 28th day of October, 2005.

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